



Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion Session

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 28, 2024 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

President's Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center

Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Members of the public able to join via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Sue AnderBois, Brett Feldman, Chris Kearns (departed at 2:30 p.m.), Kurt Teichert, Priscilla De La Cruz, Joe Garlick, Peter Gill Case

Others in Attendance: Seth Handy, Steven Chybowski, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Rachel Sholly, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Grant Dulgarian, Tina Munter, John Harrington (virtual), Todd Bianco (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Nicholas Ucci (virtual), Karen Bradbury (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Dr. Carrie Gill (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting into order at 1:09 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Introduction & Icebreaker

Ms. Sholly welcomed the group and presented the agenda. She also led an energy bingo game as an icebreaker.

4. Regulatory Updates

Mr. Johnson provided a brief update on the status of the energy efficiency docket. He shared the procedural schedule and reviewed the filing deadlines. Mr. Handy discussed the idea of Council Member Teichert presenting testimony to the PUC. Mr. Johnson will share the drafted testimony ahead of time for the Council's feedback.

5. Energy Efficiency Legislation: Current Challenges and Opportunities

a. Update and Discussion Framing by Councilor Sue AnderBois, Councilor Harry Oakley, Consultant Team and Legal Counsel

Mr. Johnson presented slides on topics that have been raised and questions for a discussion framework. Chair Oakley discussed the potential topic areas, specifically the idea of transitioning the State's efficiency programming to 3-year binding plans. Mr. Handy spoke to the legal and regulatory requirements to make such a change. Council Member AnderBois discussed the Council's obligations and emphasized that the Council is not in a lobbyist position.



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b. Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team and Legal Counsel

The Council discussed opportunities in the future to align the Least Cost Procurement statute with the Act on Climate legislation. For example, the Council discussed how there are only two bullets under the Environment section of the Least-Cost Procurement Standards. Council Member AnderBois shared that the Least Cost Procurement statute was about cost-effectiveness and conservation at the time that it was originally written. Acting Commissioner suggested exploring a workshop between the Council and other energy stakeholders including the PUC to be able to explore these topics. Chair Oakley said next steps need to be prioritized and create recommendations based on the day's discussion. He suggested that the Consultant Team assemble the Council's recommendations. Mr. Johnson also suggested creating a legislative working group or task force to explore these items in more detail.

6. Legislator Education on Energy Efficiency

a. Discussion Framing by Councilor Sue AnderBois

Chair Oakley announced that the Council will establish a Priority Task Force will be and asked for volunteers. Council Members De La Cruz, AnderBois, Feldman and/or DR. Gill, Gill Case, and Mr. Johnson will serve as part of the task force. Council Member AnderBois was appointed to lead the initiative.

Council Member AnderBois presented a draft of an educational Energy Efficiency Policy in Rhode Island presentation and asked for feedback. Her presentation included information on the EEC, the definition of energy efficiency and examples, as well as what is currently happening in Rhode Island.

b. Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team

Council Member Garlick suggested highlighting Rhode Island as a leader and comparing our programs to our neighboring states in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Council Member De La Cruz suggested including more information on lower-income ratepayers. Mr. Handy suggested tying links to existing mandates with recommendations. Council Member Gill Case suggested expanding on what has changed since 2006 when the Least-Cost Procurement legislation first passed. Council Member De La Cruz suggested



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emphasizing the value and impact of energy efficiency. Incorporating new ads from the Council's public awareness campaign, especially emphasizing low-income ratepayers, was also discussed. Council Member Teichert suggested that the message that energy efficiency is fundamental to achieving renewable energy goals be included. Ms. Sholly suggested making this an annual presentation. Chair Oakley suggested some edits to the presentation, including action items.

7. Market Potential Study

a. Update and Discussion Framing by Consultant Team

Mr. Caesar presented on the idea of commissioning a Market Potential Study in advance of the next three-year plan. He described potential study scopes from technical, down to program achievable. He also described the limitations of such studies. The timeline of a possible procurement was presented for consideration.

b. Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team

Mr. Chybowski asked about the targets and alternative methods for determining targets without the market potential study. Council Member Gill Case asked about the cost and Mr. Johnson will prepare some additional thoughts and bring it to an upcoming Full Council meeting. Council Member Teichert felt that money and time would be better spent if used to fund innovation such as solving problems identified in the non-participant study.

8. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.